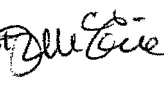


ED COMMITTEE #2
July 22, 2013
Update

MEMORANDUM

July 18, 2013

TO: Education Committee

FROM: Essie McGuire, Senior Legislative Analyst 

SUBJECT: **Update – Edible Gardens in Montgomery County Public Schools**

Today the Education Committee will receive an update on edible gardens in the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). The following individuals are expected to participate in this discussion:

- Sean Gallagher, Assistant Director, Department of Facilities Management
- Laurie Jenkins, Supervisor, Outdoor Environmental Education

The Education Committee has had an ongoing interest in increasing edible gardens in schools and opportunities for students and schools to incorporate gardening into their communities. The Committee held a briefing in September 2012 and discussed the ways in which edible gardens are integrated into the curriculum as well as the informational and support structures MCPS has put into place to facilitate edible gardens in the instructional program.

The purpose of today's discussion is to receive an update on the status of edible gardens in schools, and an update on the partnership between MCPS and the Parks Department regarding community gardens on or adjacent to MCPS sites.

Edible Gardens Update

MCPS is collecting information on the number of schools with edible gardens in the past and upcoming school years. At this time, MCPS has full responses from 114 schools and may have additional update information for the Committee at the worksession.

Of the 114 schools responding to date, a total of 28 have integrated edible gardens into their school program, representing 25 percent of responders, and an additional 7 schools have plans to create an edible garden in the upcoming school year. At the Committee's September update MCPS reported that 20 percent of schools had edible gardens as part of their program.

MCPS provided the summary information on circle 1 that details the new steps taken since the last update to integrate edible gardens into the curriculum and to support school programs. MCPS indicates that the Next Generation Science Standards and Common Core offer opportunities for integrating gardens, as does Curriculum 2.0.

MCPS reports several support mechanisms for schools wanting to pursue an edible garden program, including an MCCPTA group, a group formed by the Montgomery County Food Network, a position created through the Audubon Naturalist Society, and a collaboration with the Master Gardener program.

Community Gardens Update

MCPS provided the following update information on the status of community gardens on sites on or adjacent to MCPS property:

MCPS and the Parks have partnered for the past four years to create two community gardens on MCPS sites and identify other sites that have the potential to be developed as community gardens.

- ***Rocking Horse Road Center*** – *Developed in 2010, the community garden at Rocking Horse Road Center is fully subscribed with approximately 60 plots.*
- ***Emory Grove Center*** – *This community garden closed in December 2012 as the site is needed to function as an up-county holding school. Candlewood Elementary School has recently moved on to the site in preparation for the coming school year while its home facility is being modernized.*
- ***Spring Mill Center*** – *Is another MCPS site that the Parks have evaluated. However, the Parks have found that there is insufficient community interest for a community garden to be developed in the near future.*
- ***Bradley Hills Community Garden*** – *Is not on MCPS property, but directly adjacent to Bradley Hills Elementary School. This garden is fully subscribed with about 21 plots. Bradley Hills Elementary School was relocated to Radnor Center during an addition project. The school is returning to its home location during the summer of 2013.*

MCPS continues to work with the Parks Department to identify additional locations for community garden on MCPS properties.

To: Essie McGuire

Re: Update on Edible Gardens in MCPS Schools

Updated information on edible schoolyard gardens in MCPS:

- **The number of schools with edible gardens**

Current data shows that 28 of 114 responding schools have integrated edible gardens into their school program (25% of reporting schools). Seven additional schools report plans to create an edible garden in FY 2014.

- **Edible gardens are an option for teaching the curriculum**

The Next Generation Science Standards and Common Core call for the use of authentic context for teaching and learning: gardens make learning real. Curriculum 2.0 - built with cross curricular connections - includes opportunities for teachers to choose to use gardens for instruction. At the middle and high school levels there are several content areas where edible gardens can be used to address the MSDE indicators. In addition to the MCPS curriculum, the Maryland Green School Program awards certification to schools after successful completion of a lengthy application; evidence of the use of the environment as a context for learning is a major criteria. <http://www.maeoe.org/greenschools/application/index.php>

- **Support for schools who decide to choose an edible garden**

In the fall of 2012, the Montgomery County PTA created a group of interested adults who share the same goal: supporting schools who choose to teach using gardens. In addition, the Montgomery County Food Council also formed a School Garden workgroup; they are working on mapping school gardens, identifying funding sources, and developing a video. Audubon Naturalist Society created a School Garden Coordinator position; that individual is working with Whole Foods to provide training for 21 school garden champions. MCPS Outdoor Environmental Education Programs works with interested schools to connect them to resources that will assist in garden planning and implementation.

In February MCPS Outdoor Environmental Education Programs collaborated with Montgomery County Master Gardeners to conduct a three-hour workshop on container gardening. A total of 24 teachers attended.

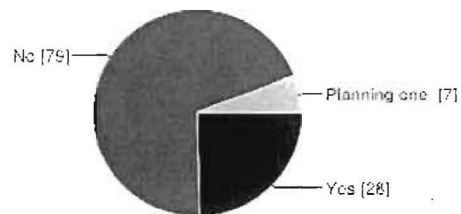
Montgomery County Public Schools Edible School Gardens

Presentation to:
Montgomery County Council
Education Committee
July 22, 2013

Laurie Jenkins, Supervisor
Outdoor Environmental Education Programs

Sean Gallagher, Assistant Director
Department of Facilities Management

Montgomery County Public Schools Edible School Gardens



Number of daily responses		
Yes	28	25%
No	79	69%
Planning one for FY 2014	7	6%



Forest Knolls Elementary School



Silver Spring International Middle School
and Garrett Park Elementary School

Edible School Gardens Next Steps

Continue to work to support to schools
who would like to try a school garden:

- Funding Opportunities
- School Garden Champions
- Collaboration with Partners



Rocking Horse Road Center
Community Garden



Healthy food, lots of learning, and smiles:
School yard and Community Gardens!